

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An animal rumen-resistant feed supplement in ~~the a~~ solid form, said feed supplement comprising at least one methionine derivative and a porous carrier material;

wherein said methionine derivative is selected from the group consisting of liquid ~~and solid~~ esters of the 2-hydroxy-4-(methylthio) butanoic acid, ~~with the proviso that solid esters have a melting point of 100°C at most;~~ the 2-amino-4-methylthiobutanamide, and the 2-hydroxy-4-methylthiobutanamide;

-said methionine derivative accounts for at least 20% and up to 70% by weight of the feed supplement; ~~and~~

said supplement is in the form of particles having a size range of from 80 to 600 microns; ~~and~~

wherein the carrier material is selected from the group consisting of natural clays, silicates, zeolithes and porous silica.

2. (Currently Amended) The feed supplement of claim 1, wherein said methionine derivative is a linear or branched alkyl ester of ~~the~~ 2-hydroxy-4-(methylthio) butanoic acid selected from the group consisting of methyl ester, ethyl ester, n-propyl ester, isopropyl ester, butyl esters, ~~namely n-butyl ester, sec-butyl ester, isobutyl ester and tertio butyl ester,~~ pentyl esters and hexyl esters, ~~especially n-pentyl, isopentyl, n-hexyl and isohexyl esters.~~

3. (Original) The feed supplement of claim 2, wherein the ester is the isopropyl ester or the tertio butyl ester.

4. (Previously Presented) The feed supplement as claimed in claim 1, wherein the porous carrier material has a porosity of at least 0.4 ml/g, and preferably at least 1.5 ml/g.

5. (Currently Amended) The feed supplement as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carrier material is selected from the group consisting of ~~natural clays and silicates such as vermiculite, sepiolite, perlite, and bentonite; from zeolites or from porous silica.~~

6. (Original) The feed supplement of claim 5, wherein the carrier material is sepiolite and the methionine derivative accounts for up to 40% by weight of the feed supplement.

7. (Original) The feed supplement of claim 5, wherein the carrier material is silica and the methionine derivative accounts for up to 70% by weight of the feed supplement.

8. (Currently Amended) The feed supplement as claimed in claim 1, wherein the particles have a size range of from 125 to 500 microns, ~~preferably from 160 to 400 microns.~~

9. (Previously Presented) An animal feed comprising a feed supplement as claimed claim 1.

10. (New) The feed supplement of claim 1; wherein said methionine derivative is selected from the group consisting of n-butyl ester, sec butyl ester, isobutyl ester, tertio butyl ester, n-pentyl esters, isopentyl esters, n-hexyl esters and isohexyl esters.

11. (New) The feed supplement as claimed in claim 1, wherein the particles have a size range of from 160 to 400 microns.